Charging of higher rates for Naphtha Fuel Oil and LSHS by Oil Companies

*316. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil companies have been charging the fertilizer units for Naphtha Fuel Oil and LSHS at rates higher than the import parity prices; and

(b) if so, the additional subsidy outgo due to such excess charge during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) As part of the phased programme of dismantling the administered pricing mechanism, some petroleum products including naphtha and LSHS have been decontrolled effective 1.4.1998. These products are sold by the refineries at market driven prices. Public Sector Oil Companies charge the fertilizers units for naphtha, fuel oil and LSHS supplied to them at prices that are worked out on the principle of import parity.

Discontinuance of Karnatic Classical Music Programmes

*317. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnatic Classical Music programmes on Fridays in the 'South Zone Hook-up concert' have been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government will consider revival of the programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER

OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati (All India Radio) has informed that instead of South Zone Concert on Fridays, which had only limited coverage for the Southern States, the Karnatic Music has now been included in the National Programme of music on every Saturday and Sunday, to provide wider coverage and better projection of Karnatic music artists.

(c) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation package for SAIL

*318. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the rehabilitation package proposed to strengthen Steel Authority of India Ltd. instead of disinvestment of SAIL units opposed by the Consultative Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): With a view to improve the long term viability of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Government in February, 2000 approved a financial-cum-business restructuring package which among other things include conversion of certain units, engaged in non-core activities, into joint venture. This package is under implementation and there is no other rehabilitation package under consideration of Government for SAIL.

Supply of Natural Gas to Tengakhat Gas Cracker Unit

*319. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest agreement of supplying natural gas to Tengakhat Gas Cracker Unit made by his Ministry;

(b) the price fixed per 1000 standard cubic metre of gas which will be supplied to the unit;

(c) whether there are any other conditions in supplying gas; and